

Week 2—Numbers 9:15-10:13

Begin each day of your study by asking the LORD to speak to you through His Word.

Day 1

Background—This section of Numbers chronicles the Israelites finally setting out for the Promised Land after their deliverance from slavery in Egypt and their receiving of the Law from God on Mt. Sinai.

1. Read Numbers 9:15-23. what impressions do you have of God and the nature of His relationship with His people?

2. What does the cloud mean for the people? When else in the Bible is God's presence represented by the cloud of fire? Why doesn't God's presence descend like a cloud to guide us still today? Do you wish it did?

Cloud—The cloud was a visible symbol of the Lord's presence hovering above the tabernacle. The LORD also directed the movements of His people by means of the cloud.

3. Read Acts 2:1-4. What is the significance of the fire landing on the disciples? What does this mean for followers of Jesus today? How is this similar to the cloud of fire? How is it different?

Day 2

1. Read Numbers 9:15-23. Who was in charge of leading the people? Is it easy for you to give up control and allow God to lead your life? Why or why not?

2. What are some of the directions God gave the Israelites in order to get them to the Promised Land? What are some of the directions He has given us? What do the verses below say about this?

Romans 6:16—

2 John 1:6—

Luke 11:28—

John 8:51—

John 14:23—

Romans 2:13—

3. Why is obedience to these directions so important to follow? Does God give us these directions as a burden or to help us on our journey through the wilderness? How do you view them?

Day 3

1. Read Numbers 10:1-10 and then the note below. What were the purposes of the silver trumpets?

Trumpets—Long, straight, slender metal tubes with flared ends that were used for order and discipline. They sounded not only for assembling but also for marching for battle, and festivals. Later, King David would expand the instruments to include a full orchestra in the worship of the LORD (see 1 Chronicles 25) but the silver trumpets were still used regularly before the ark of the covenant (see 1 Chron 16:6).

2. How can/does this section relate to being a part of a church? Do you view your faith journey more as an individual or as done with community? Why is it more powerful to be a part of a community rather than just “going it alone?”

3. Understanding the trumpets were also a call to battle for the Israelites, are we called to fight a battle today? Against who or what? What do 1 Timothy 1:18-19 and Ephesians 6:10-20 say about this? Do you see the Christian life as a battle? Why or why not?

Day 4

1. Read Numbers 10:11-13. How do you think the people felt that they were finally on their way to the Promised Land? How did you first feel when you accepted Christ? What could similarities and differences be between the two?

2. What were some of the unknowns that faced the Israelites as they got set to move? What *could* they know? How does this relate to our lives?

The Israelites set out—Their stay at Sinai had lasted almost a year and was quite eventful, as described in Exodus 19-40, all of Leviticus, and in the first 10 chapters of Numbers. At last the people of Israel are moving again toward the Promised Land.

3. Would this journey be difficult for the Israelites? In what way? How is our “pilgrimage” similar? What does Jesus say about it in John 15:18-20?

Day 5

1. Read Numbers 9:15-23 and 10:11-13 again. What is the significance of the tabernacle? Why is it more than just a symbol based on these verses? Now Read John 1:14 with the understanding that “made His dwelling” literally means “tabernacled” among us. What does this reveal about Jesus and God’s plan for His people? How does Matthew 28:20 encourage you in this still today?

2. How are the people of God today similar to the wandering Israelites in this day? How does Hebrews 11:13-16 add to your understanding of this?

3. As you think about our “Promised Land” what most excites you? How can you think more about that in your daily life? Do you think it would change the way you lived if you thought about it more? In what way?

Conclusion

1. What most stood out to you as you studied Numbers 9:15-10:13 this week? *Why* do you think this was the case?

2. What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to *do* as a result of this? Be prepared to share with your group!